

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **H. 3907**

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TO:	The Honorable James H. Harrison, Chairman, House Judiciary Committee		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Rodney P. Grizzle		
DATE:	May 4, 2005	SBD:	2005463

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AUTHOR:	Representative Wilkins	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	14-5-610
SUBJECT:	Increase in Judicial Circuit and Family Court Judges		

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ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:  
A Cost to the General Fund (See Below)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:  
\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

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**BILL SUMMARY:**

House Bill 3907 amends Section 14-5-610 and Section 20-7-1410 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, by increasing the number of Circuit Court Judges from 13 to 16 and also increasing the over all number of Family Court Judges by 3. The 3 new Family Court Judges would be in the fifth, ninth and thirteenth Circuits.

**EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:**

The Judicial Department indicates there will be a recurring impact on the General Fund of the State of approximately \$1,786,670. First year non-recurring costs are estimated at \$111,360. Each additional Circuit Court judge requires supporting staff including an administrative assistant, court reporter and a law clerk. A Family Court judge requires the same excluding the law clerk. Therefore, fifteen additional staff would be needed excluding the six judges. Total salary and fringe benefits for six judges and fifteen additional staff is estimated at \$1,656,470. Recurring operating cost including travel, supplies, material, automation support are estimated at \$130,200. Non-recurring first year expenses include furniture and computer.

The additional three Circuit Court judges (with nine support staff) account for \$989,680 of the total recurring cost and \$61,530 of the non-recurring cost. The additional three Family Court judges (with six support staff) account for \$796,990 of the total recurring cost and \$49,830 of the non-recurring cost.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:**

None.

**SPECIAL NOTES:**

None.

Approved by:



Don Addy  
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget